

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS

TO AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

AMEMBASSY ANKARA

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 2025

C O N F I D E N T I A L ATHENS 73

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OTRA, GR, CY, TU

SUBJECT: VISIT OF FRANCIS NOEL-BAKER TO CYPRUS AND TURKEY

1. WE HAVE BEEN ADVISED BY FRANCIS NOEL-BAKER, FORMER BRITISH LABOR MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT AND SON OF NOBEL PEACE PRIZE WINNER, PHILLIP NOEL-BAKER, THAT HE INTENDS TO VISIT NICOSIA AND ANKARA WITHIN NEXT TEN DAYS. HE HOPES TO BE ABLE TO CALL ON AMBASSADORS MACOMBER AND CRAWFORD FOR INFORMAL EXCHANGE OF VIEWS ON CYPRUS PROBLEM, GREEK-TURKISH RELATIONS, ETC. HE REQUESTED DCM STEARNS, WHO HAS KNOWN HIM FOR MANY YEARS, TO PROVIDE HIM WITH INTRODUCTION TO EMBASSIES NICOSIA AND ANKARA, WHICH WE ARE DOING BY MEANS OF THIS MESSAGE.

2. FYI: FRANCIS NOEL-BAKER HAS BEEN A MORE-OR-LESS PERMANENT RESIDENT OF GREECE SINCE HIS RESIGNATION FROM PARLIAMENT IN 1969. HE HAS A LARGE ESTATE ON THE ISLAND OF EUBOEA WHICH HAS BEEN IN THE NOEL-BAKER FAMILY SINCE THE EARLY 19TH CENTURY. DUE IN PART TO THE VIEW HELD BY A NUMBER OF INFLUENTIAL GREEKS THAT FRANCIS ENJOYED TOO COZY A RELATIONSHIP WITH THE GREEK MILITARY JUNTA, THE GREEK GOVERNMENT IS PRESENTLY CONSIDERING MEASURES TO EXPROPRIATE HIS ESTATE (WITH COMPENSATION). FRANCIS HIMSELF IS A WELL-INTENTIONED ACTIVIST WHO OVER MANY YEARS HAS ENJOYED GOOD RELATIONS WITH EMBASSY ATHENS. WHILE STILL ACTIVE IN BRITISH POLITICS, HE PLAYED A BEHIND-THE-SCENES ROLE IN NEGOTIATIONS LEADING UP TO
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THE LONDON-ZURICH ACCORDS IN 1960 AND WAS AT THAT TIME

REASONABLY CLOSE TO ARCHBISHOP MAKARIOS. WE DO NOT
KNOW THE PRESENT STATUS OF THEIR RELATIONSHIP BUT
SUSPECT THAT IT HAS COOLED APPRECIABLY IN VIEW OF FRANCIS'
SUPPOSED CORDIALITY TOWARD THE JUNTA. IN ANY EVENT, WE
SEE NO HARM AND SOME POSSIBLE GAIN IN HAVING CONTACT
WITH NOEL-BKER IN NICOSIA AND ANKARA. HE KNOWS GREECE
WELL, IS FULLY CONVERSANT WITH THE HISTORICAL INS AND
OUTS OF THE CYPRUS PROBLEM, AND WOULD NOT REPEAT NOT,
WE BELIEVE SEEK TO EXPLOIT SUCH CONTACTS TO THE DIS-
ADVANTAGE OF EITHER EMBASSY. END FYI.
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